

ORIGIN/ACTION

NEA-10

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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POL 23-9 Greece

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A-2912

NO.

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PRIORITY

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : ANKARA, ATHENS, NICOSIA, PARIS, THESSALONIKI, USUN

FROM : Embassy LONDON

SUBJECT : GREEK COUP: Labor Backbench Motion

REF : London 8759

REVIEWED BY

DATE: April 27, 1967

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PA or FOR RELATIONS

The text of the motion tabled in Commons April 24 by Labor Member Malcolm K. MacMillan, after his motion for adjournment and emergency debate was denied, is enclosed.

In requesting an emergency debate on "the armed rebellion against the legitimate Greek Government and constitutional authority and the consequent involvement of British citizens and the Armed Forces in a situation in which their personal safety, rights and interests are endangered," MacMillan said inter alia:

"I should like to emphasize that we have, at Larissa, units of the Royal Air Force under the same command as the military forces of Greece -- under the same command, that is, of NATO; and that in neighboring Cyprus we have, under United Nations command, a contingent of peace-keeping force soldiers as well. All these people can at any moment be involved in a most dangerous situation...."

The Speaker declared according to precedent such motions for adjournment are out of order "where the responsibility of Her Majesty's Government is not directly and immediately involved, or where a foreign Government are more directly responsible."

BRUCE

Enclosure

As stated

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by:

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Contents and Classification Approved by:

POL - William H. Brubeck

Clearance:

1967 APR 29 PM 1 12

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Enclosure 1

A-2912 from London

80 MPs

M. K. Macmillan (Western) who had tried unsuccessfully to have the adjournment of the House to discuss the situation, later moved this motion, supported by 80 Labour members:—

That this House, reaffirming its enduring friendship for the Greek people, its gallant ally against tyranny, the freedom-loving people of Greece, expresses its abhorrence of the brutal military dictatorship against Parliament and democratic authority, its condemnation of the seizure of power by the Papagos and other party, and the suppression of the press and freedom of assembly on the 21st elections;

That it condemns the rebel leaders for making any attempt at a coup or otherwise arbitrary action in Cyprus; reminds the Government of Greece's binding obligations under NATO and her ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and would condemn any use of British supplies or NATO equipment in the suppression of popular constitutional rights and expression; and calls for the full return forthwith to democratic government and the holding of free elections consistent with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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